

FOUR ALABAMA MEN AT CAMP PIKE TO WIN PROMOTION

C. K. Bryan of Birmingham Among Those Selected for Third Officers' Training Camp

Little Rock, December 29.—(Special.) Of the six privates of the engineer regiment today selected to attend the engineer officers' training camp at Camp Lee, Petersburg, Va., four are Alabamians.

The list included 15 members of the 312th engineers, but nine of them are sergeants, former regular army men, and only the six privates are selectees. The list includes Privates C. K. Bryan of Birmingham, R. E. Coss of Eutaw and W. T. Price of Buhi, all of Company A, and Bej. T. Collier of Decatur of casual company No. 5. The detail will report at Camp Lee January 3. The death of Private Grady L. Curry of Cardo, company 7, casual troops, was announced at the base hospital today. Death was caused by pneumonia. The soldier is survived by his sister, Miss Annie Curry.

Little Rock, December 29.—(Special.) The death of Isaac Pittwell of Breen was announced at the base hospital today. Private Pittwell was a member of the First company, casual troops, and had been awaiting his transfer to Camp Jackson.

Warnings have been sent to every organization in the division against the use of 6500 cans of tomatoes sent here from St. Louis, which are said to contain ground glass. Information that the shipment was suspected as dangerous was received by Maj. Kenneth P. Williams, camp quartermaster, and an investigation will be made tomorrow.

COPELAND RESIGNS CLERKSHIP OF THE CRIMINAL COURT

Edward R. Copeland, clerk of the criminal division of the circuit court of Jefferson county, has tendered his resignation to William J. Waldrup, clerk of the court, to be effective February 1. No announcement has been made in regard to his successor, or other changes in the personnel of the office.

Mr. Copeland has been in the office of the criminal court for several years. He was chief clerk under his father, W. B. Copeland, clerk of the criminal court, whose office was abolished when the circuit court of Jefferson county was established. He was appointed clerk of the criminal division of the new court, and is accounted an efficient county official, attentive to his duties and courteous to those in attendance at court.

George Willet of Saco, Me., has a cigar made 40 years ago by Cyrus King, who was a cigarmaker. The cigar contains twice as much tobacco as is used in a cigar today.

Entire Country East Of Mississippi River In Grasp of Winter

Cold Wave Finds Many Homes in Larger Cities Without Fuel and Much Suffering Will Result—Rail and Water Traffic Will Be Impeded

Snow in Florida

Jacksonville, Fla., December 29.—A slight flurry of snow fell here tonight. It was believed to have been the first snowfall recorded in Jacksonville in nearly 20 years.

Washington, December 29.—Practically all the country east of the Mississippi river is shivering in a cold wave almost as severe as that experienced early in the month. Actual suffering was expected in many places because of coal shortages.

Snow fell today in the Atlantic coast states, with rain in other sections, but fair weather generally is forecast in the east tomorrow and Monday.

Abatement of the cold is not expected before Monday and Tuesday, higher temperatures being promised Monday in the Ohio valley and upper lake region and Tuesday in the coast states.

The blanket of cold has extended over the Missouri valley and Rocky Mountain region for several days, but temperatures in that section went up today and rainfall was reported in the north Pacific states.

SIX BELOW IN NEW YORK

New York, December 29.—With a minimum temperature of 6 degrees below zero at 11 o'clock tonight, this city experienced the coldest weather ever officially recorded for December. From 8 o'clock this morning, when the official thermometer registered 1 degree below zero, the mercury never rose more than 2 degrees above.

There was much suffering among the poor, many families without coal being obliged to burn wood in kitchen ranges and use the kitchen as a living room. Handling the coal shortage here was extremely difficult, because it was necessary to cut out all the coal shipped across the Hudson river from New Jersey.

HOMES WITHOUT FUEL

Boston, December 29.—New England was in the grip of the coldest wave of several winters tonight, with thousands of homes without sufficient fuel, because of the coal shortage. With the thermometer at the weather bureau here registering 5 below zero at 8 p. m., the government forecaster announced "continued cold" for tomorrow.

It was the coldest night here since 1914, and the coldest December night since 1902, when the mercury went down to 14 degrees below zero. There were many colder spots in New England, for instance the national army cantonment

at Ayer, where unofficial thermometers recorded 23 degrees below. All training for the soldiers was abandoned.

NAVIGATION CLOSING

Baltimore, December 29.—The coldest weather in Maryland for years is rapidly closing up navigation on the rivers and bays of the Chesapeake bay. The sailing of all side-wheel steamers of the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic and the Delaware and Virginia Railway companies were abandoned today and only propeller-driven steamers were permitted to leave on their regular routes. Orders were also issued by the officials to masters of steamers at down-the-bay ports to listen to this port in order to escape a general freeze. Steamers were many hours late. A fleet of oyster boats is frozen in on the dredging bars and nearly all sailing craft are tied up. The ice-breaking boats will begin tomorrow to clear the channels for ocean-going ships.

SOLDIERS SUFFER

Ayer, Mass., December 29.—Hundreds of national army soldiers at Camp Devens were suffering from frost-bitten hands, ears and faces tonight at the end of the coldest day experienced in this vicinity in years. It was 15 degrees below zero tonight, with the mercury still dropping.

Out of doors training was impracticable. The only men on outside duty tonight were the guards at the gates, and they huddled about bonfires.

NO CLUE FOUND AS TO THE IDENTITY OF SANDBAGGERS

Detectives Believe Robbery Was Planned Before Attack—Victim Unable to Describe Assailants

City detectives yesterday failed to find and clue to the identity of the parties who sandbagged and robbed C. C. Bryant of Tusculum Friday shortly before midnight at Third and Twenty-first streets, north. The robbery secured \$200 and escaped so quickly that practically no description of them has been available so far.

According to a statement made by Bryant to police authorities he was walking south on the west side of Twenty-first street. As he passed the alley he was hit on the head from behind. The blow stunned him and he was unable to tell whether his assailants were white or black.

A number of people witnessed the assault, but the robbers dashed away before they were aware of what had happened. Detectives believe the robbery was planned beforehand and that Bryant had been followed for several blocks by the men who knew the exact location of his money, as they had no time to search their victim.

The robbery was one of the boldest in recent years, and was committed across the street from the county jail, and practically within the shadow of the sheriff's office.

Army Officers Will Not Discuss Arrest of Deppe, Alleged German Reservist

Montgomery, December 29.—(Special.)—Officers of the Ohio division have declined to discuss the arrest of Gustave Deppe, German reservist, who was held incommunicado at Camp Sheridan for 35 days and was turned over to the federal civil authorities Friday night. Deppe is held at the Montgomery county jail awaiting a decision of the government as to what disposition will be made of him.

Deppe does not give any information about himself and merely has stated that he is awaiting instructions from an Indianapolis pump and tank company which he claims, sent him here to act as its agent. The government claims he is the former editor of "The German" of Richmond, Ill., and that the paper was suppressed, and that he has two brothers in the German army.

Herman Lansberg, who has been held by military authorities since December 16, was turned over to civil authorities Saturday on a charge of vagrancy. An effort has been made to determine whether or not Lansberg, who has possession of a supply of inferior toothpaste, was attempting to dispose of it to Ohio soldiers.

Slackers Can No Longer Evade Service by Getting Dishonorable Discharges

Washington, December 29.—Dishonorable discharges from the army, which many officers believe have been seized upon by slackers and objectors as the vehicle of escape from military service, will no longer provide such an opportunity, under an order issued today by Secretary Baker. For several weeks the army has been losing men at the rate of 100 to 150 a day. They chose to commit offenses which led to their dishonorable discharge.

In the future, Secretary Baker ordered, such men will get terms of imprisonment with their discharges, and whenever possible some other form of sentence will be used.

American Loans Made to Allied Governments Now Past Four Billion Mark

Washington, December 29.—Credits to allies passed the \$4,000,000,000 mark today when Secretary McAdoo authorized additional loans of \$185,000,000 to Great Britain for January purchases in the United States; \$155,000,000 to France; \$7,500,000 to Belgium and \$1,000,000 to Rumania. Today's total was \$3,948,500,000 and the total credits to the allies \$4,233,400,000.

Alex R. Dearborn, Jr., to Join the Aviation Corps

Alex R. Dearborn, Jr., who for the past 14 months has been located in Phoenix City, Ariz., is spending a few days in the city visiting relatives and friends. He is en route to Washington, D. C., where he will enter the United States service in the aviation corps. Mr. Dearborn, who is general sales manager for McArthur Brothers, distributors for Packard-Dodge cars and motor trucks, has secured a leave of absence during his army service.

THE WEATHER

Weather Forecast
Washington, December 29.—Weather forecast for Alabama and Mississippi: Fair and continued cold Sunday and Monday; light north winds.
Tennessee: Fair and continued cold Sunday; Monday fair and not quite so cold.
Georgia: Fair Sunday, preceded by rain on the coast; colder in south portion; Monday partly cloudy, continued cold; moderate northwest winds.

Local Data
For the 24 hours ending at 7 p. m., December 29, 1917:
Highest temperature 23
Lowest temperature 17
Mean temperature 20
Normal temperature 46
Deficiency in temperature since January 100
Total rainfall since January 1 59.90
Excess in rainfall since January 1 10.70
Relative humidity 7 a. m. 88
2 p. m. 39
7 p. m. 58

PRASE AND NOT CONDEMNATION FOR NAVY DEPARTMENT

(Continued from Page One)

The navy is possessed of supplies to last for 18 months.

BIG THINGS EXPECTED

The navy could engage in 20 Jutland battles and find itself thereafter well supplied with ammunition. From its reserve store, the navy tomorrow could clothe for every crime, 100,000 additional men.

Mr. Oliver, without divulging secrets, stated that from the standpoint of the navy, "great things might be expected by spring."

It was gathered that the navy of the United States is maneuvering with the navy of England and that in the event of another big battle at sea the ships of the United States would certainly be engaged. Inquiry into the navy department will be resumed Thursday. There is no question but that the department will be given not only a clean bill of health but will be congratulated.

DENT PRAISES ARMY

Representative Dent of Alabama, chairman of the House committee on military affairs congratulates the navy on the efficiency of its preparedness but declares that despite criticism the army has likewise wonderfully improved.

"When everything is considered," said he, "the department of Secretary Baker deserves commendation. In eight months we have done more than England did in two years. The transportation by the United States of 1,000,000 men to France would be a more laudable task than were England to transport 10,000,000."

INEFFICIENCY NOT EXCUSED

Mr. Dent does not excuse alleged inefficiency in certain branches of the department. However, he does not approve of a senatorial probe presently under way.

"The Senate committee," said he, "is attempting in public manner to do that which the House committee in a quiet way has almost accomplished. In time of war it serves little purpose to point to the blunders of the past. It is similar to shedding tears over milk that is split. Incompetency is fast being weeded out and the facts evolved by the Senate committee are old facts in some instances already corrected."

APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr. Dent's committee will begin the consideration of the army appropriation bill Thursday. The bill, in view of recent supplemental estimates, will appropriate \$11,166,363.153 as against \$7,468,546,952 appropriated last session. The supplemental estimates provide for additional expenses in regular supplies, transportation of the army and clothing. The alleged lack of business method which has prevailed in the quartermaster's department is exemplified in the supplemental estimate for clothing. Originally \$853,000,000 was asked for. The supplemental estimate, in addition to the original request, calls for \$949,000,000. The department erred in its calculation more than 100 per cent. This urgent request for additional appropriation greater than original estimates tends to lend color to complaint that boys in cantonments are not properly clothed against bitter weather.

SHARPE NOW PUTS BLAME ON COUNCIL NATIONAL DEFENSE

(Continued from Page One)

profits at \$500,000 yearly and also told of another given the company, which was said to have but \$10,000 capital, for sorting old, rejected and discarded army clothing. Captain Perreless estimated that this contract, also canceled, would yield "very much more" profits. \$250,000 a year from blankets alone.

RAG MERCHANT COMBINE

That Charles Kaplan's brother, Ira A. Kaplan, was a member of the firm given the contracts was testified to by Alexander H. Kaminsky, attorney for an association of New York rag merchants who sought to do the work for the government. He said that he believed Eisenman had been "hoodwinked" by rag merchants composing a committee appointed by the council to conserve rag supplies. Eisenman, the witness said, took full responsibility for and defended the contracts. A clique in New York, Kaminsky charged, was interested in trying to get control of the country's rag business. He also asserted that Charles Kaplan knew all details connected with the contracts given the sorting company and said the 6-cent price for sorting scraps was excessive. A good profit could be made, he said, on a price of from 1 to 3 cents a pound.

Next week the committee plans to conclude investigation of ordinance affairs. General Crozier will be recalled Monday, having requested an opportunity to answer statements of Colonel Lewis regarding the Lewis machine gun controversy. Secretary Baker, also, if he desires, will be given an opportunity to make a statement on the machine gun questions.

PERSONAL

The many friends of Mr. M. D. Friedman, who is all at St. Vincent's hospital, will be pleased to learn that his condition was slightly improved yesterday. His condition, however, is still serious.

Summary of Outstanding Developments In News From Various War Fronts

Cold weather and snow in the European fighting zone have reduced military activities to a minimum in most sectors. Only in northern Italy has there been any movement of importance in the last 48 hours. Even there an infantry operation in the last 48 hours. The Italians took the initiative, delivering a blow at the Ancona-German line near Monte Toppo, on the mountain front just to the west of the Piave. The German war office reports this engagement, declaring that the Italian attack was broken up by the defensive fire.

The principal aerial activity is reported from the Italian front. Austrian planes recently beaten off from Treviso with the loss of 11 planes, carried out a bombing raid Friday night in which the city of Padua, rich in art treasures, was attacked. None of the city's noted monuments was harmed, but eight bombs dropped in the most densely populated part of the town killed 13 persons and injured 60 others. Bombs dropped on Treviso and two other towns closer to the fighting lines than Padua, which is some 35 miles from the front, caused no damage or casualties.

In naval warfare torpedoes or mines averted against British torpedo-boat destroyers operating off the Dutch coast. Three of these craft were sunk on the night of December 22 during foggy weather, with the loss of 193 officers and men.

The discipline of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe by Vice Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss as first sea lord is partly attributed in England to the loss of these three destroyers with many of their personnel.

King Ferdinand of Rumania has

abdicated the throne in favor of Crown Prince Charles, according to an unconfirmed rumor in Petrograd. This follows previous reports of a revolutionary plot against Ferdinand and other indications of a political crisis in the kingdom as described in dispatches received at the Bolshevik headquarters at Petrograd last Monday.

Petrograd special dispatches do not indicate clearly what the reaction has been in Russia of the official powers' reply to the Russian peace proposals. One view takes it that northern Russia is disposed to accept peace on almost any terms, while the attitude of the remainder of the nation is uncertain. Another correspondent considers the Bolsheviks disinclined at the German declaration to accept the principle that nationalities hitherto without political independence be allowed to decide their own future, and refusal being considered a stumbling block for further negotiations.

Meanwhile Germans who have arrived in Petrograd are being permitted to spread their propaganda, and German newspapers are circulating freely. Postal service with entente countries, on the other hand, is lacking and allied residents of Petrograd as well as the Russians as a whole remain in complete ignorance of what has gone on in allied countries for the past six weeks.

In addition to the aerial activity reported from the Italian front, British planes have been active in France over some of the territory occupied by the Germans. The British headquarters report Saturday said that 13 hostile airplanes had been accounted for, 11 of which were shot down and the two others driven down out of control. The British lost three machines in these aerial combats and of the German airplanes destroyed the British land guns brought down four.

were communicated to the commission, examiners would promptly be sent here or to other cities to inquire into them. If the facts were found to bear out the claims, he said, they would be turned over to the department of justice for action in federal courts.

Oklahoma Farmer, His Wife and Child Slain

Muskogee, Okla., December 29.—Of fliers with bloodhounds are leaving here for McLain, 13 miles south of Muskogee, where it is reported C. E. Logan, a farmer, his wife and child were murdered tonight, after which an attempt was made to burn their home. A farmer who talked to the sheriff over the telephone said there was evidence that Logan's head had been crushed with an ax.

Fire in Georgia Town

Buena Vista, Ga., December 29.—Fire, which is said to have started when a piece of motion picture film ignited in a local theatre, destroyed the theatre and an entire block of buildings in the business section here tonight. Persons in the theatre escaped uninjured. The total loss was estimated at about \$60,000.

The Filipinos are asking for information about how to build American barns.

AMERICAN BALLOON DOWN IN MEXICO

Machine Was Caught in Gale and Forced Over Rio Grande—Crew Reported Safe

Laredo, Tex., December 29.—The Army balloon, manned by Captain McCullough and eight student aviators, San Antonio early yesterday, on a course, landed at Hidalgo, Mexico, at 9 o'clock last night.

The crew was taken in charge by Mexican soldiers, who notified the authorities at Nuevo Laredo and automobiles were sent to Hidalgo for Captain McCullough and his men. They arrived here this morning.

Shortly after leaving the San Antonio aviation school the balloon, at a height of 200 feet, encountered a 10-knot wind and drifted rapidly southward. The Rio Grande was mistaken for the Mexican river and a landing was made in Mexican soil.

Investigations have not yet been made regarding the balloon. Mexican patrolmen fired on the balloon as soon as it crossed the river. Captain McCullough said here tonight, three bullets pierced the bag and permitting it to descend. Only a few shots were fired, the Mexicans having ceased firing promptly when they were notified the aircraft was not hostile.

Captain McCullough said he and his soldiers were treated courteously by the Mexicans and every consideration was shown them at military headquarters in Nuevo Laredo.

President Thanks Men Who Sent Him Found of Butter Costing \$567

Waterloo, Ia., December 29.—The pound of butter recently bid in as Red Cross sale for \$567 by 24 aviators at Marble Rock, Ia., conducted by the auxiliaries of Union and Scott townships in Butler county, and sent to the White House by the President's Christmas dinner, brought the following letter of appreciation from President Wilson:

"The White House, Washington, December 29, 1917.

"My Dear Mr. Davis:

"It is very inspiring to hear of such successes as that of the Red Cross auxiliaries of Union and Scott townships. I shall partake of the pound of butter with awe. The price paid for it is certainly an extraordinary evidence of patriotic interest. May I not, through you, congratulate all concerned in the great Red Cross sale and thank you very heartily for the gift of this fine and significant contribution."

Death at Greenville Camp

Greenville, S. C., December 29.—Death from pneumonia of Corporal Foy E. Tedder of Darlington, S. C., a member of the 11th infantry, was announced today at divisional headquarters, Camp Sevier. This is the second death in the Thirtieth division from this disease in 10 days.

The invention of a golf club with interchangeable heads proved to be without the necessary for revolution.

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